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DIRECTORATE OF  
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# *Central Intelligence Bulletin*

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50

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SECRET

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# *Central Intelligence Bulletin*

## CONTENTS

Vietnam: Situation report. (Page 1)

USSR-Czechoslovakia: A military agreement has been signed. (Page 3)

Jordan: New government checks on terrorist activities have drawn angry reactions. (Page 5)

Turkey: Dissension within the opposition Republican People's Party may lead to a new party split. (Page 6)

UK-Rhodesia: The British continue efforts to solve the dispute but are not optimistic. (Page 7)

Panama: Arias is still trying to stir up resistance to the junta. (Page 8)

Indonesia-Singapore: Relations are likely to be strained by Singapore's execution of two Indonesian marines. (Page 9)

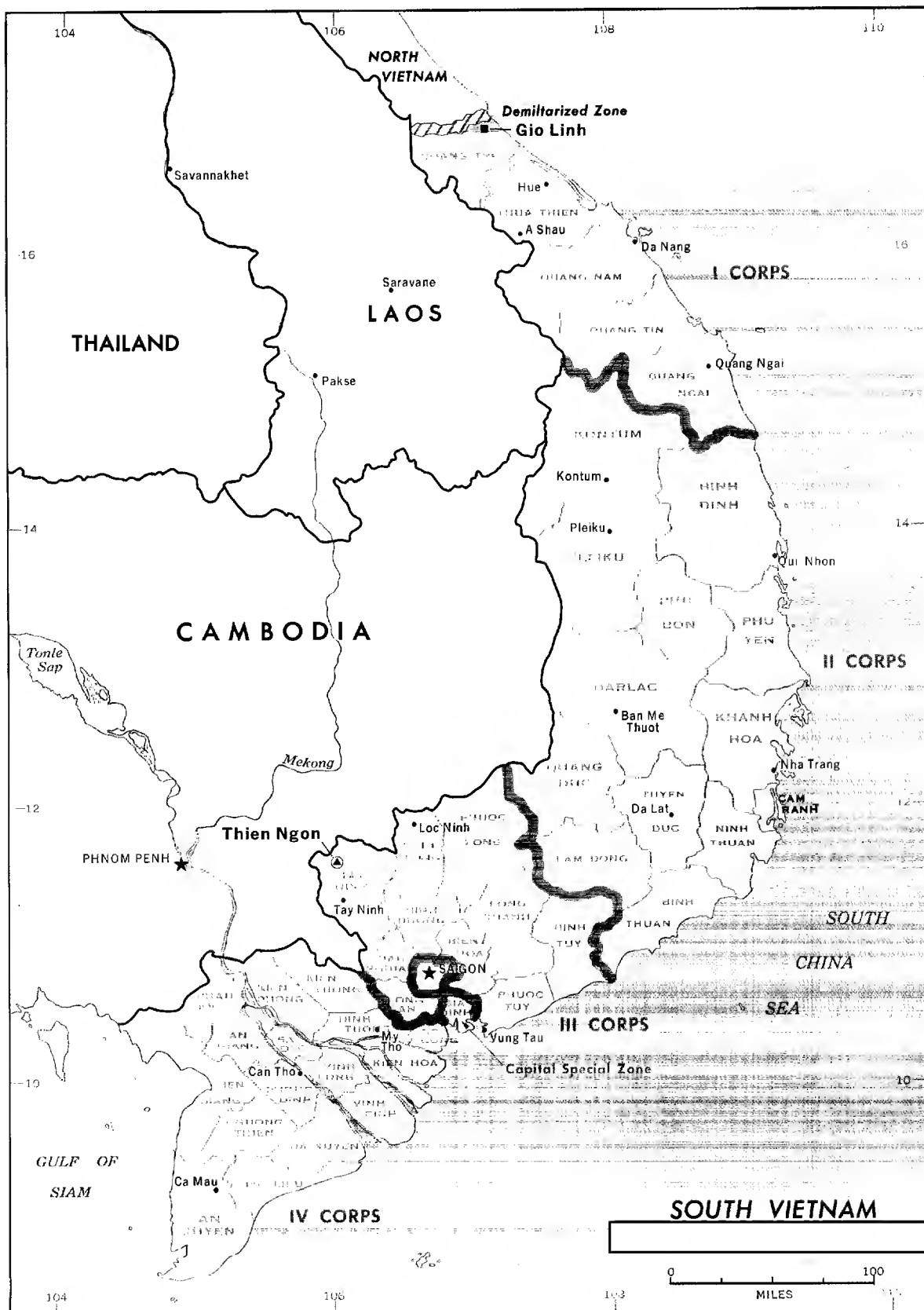
Philippines-Malaysia: Sabah dispute (Page 10)

Brazil: Student demonstrations (Page 10)

Guyana: Cabinet frictions (Page 10)

SECRET

SECRET



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SECRET

25X1

[ Vietnam:

South Vietnam: Enemy repositioning and resupply operations are continuing, apparently in preparation for a new offensive round.

There is evidence of a significant expansion in Communist logistic activity in northwestern III Corps. A heavy increase has been observed during the past few days in vehicular and other supply operations along the Tay Ninh Province border with Cambodia. Elements of the enemy's Ninth Division are probably involved, because the division's three regiments are currently believed deployed in this sector.

Significant Communist military activity occurred on 15-16 October. Allied troops attacked a Communist force estimated at battalion strength near Gio Linh. Seventy-five of the enemy troops were killed in the encounter. At Thien Ngon, a Special Forces camp came under heavy ground attack from enemy rockets and mortars.

North Vietnam: Logistic operations in support of the war are also continuing at a heavy pace in North Vietnam. Photography since early August indicates that at least five transshipment points and storage areas have been improved and enlarged within the bomb-free zone close to the 19th parallel. Stockpiling, including large stores of POL, has increased at these points. Photography shows a rapid stockpile turnover, indicating that goods are being moved onward quickly. There has also been an increase in truck and watercraft activity at rail and water transshipment points in the area.

It is believed that many of the supplies funneling through this sector are destined for Communist military units in South Vietnam. ]

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17 Oct 68

Central Intelligence Bulletin

1

SECRET

SECRET

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[ Communist front organizations throughout Europe are preparing for extraordinary efforts in support of Hanoi's position at the Paris talks. There are reports that such organizations as the World Peace Council plan large-scale protest marches and "conferences" in late October and November in various countries of Western Europe and Scandinavia as well as in Eastern Europe. ]

(Map)

25X1

17 Oct 68

*Central Intelligence Bulletin*

2

SECRET

SECRET

USSR-Czechoslovakia: Premiers Kosygin and Cernik last night in Prague signed a military agreement which Moscow can now cite as legal authority for the continued presence of its forces in Czechoslovakia.

The text of the treaty has not yet been published, but the Soviet Union reportedly plans to maintain 100,000 Soviet troops in Czechoslovakia, mostly in the western part of the country. Kosygin said yesterday that the bulk of Soviet and other Warsaw Pact troops will be withdrawn by stages within the next few months.

According to Western news reports, several questions--such as apportionment of the costs of the occupation, agreement on criminal jurisdiction, and the provision of billeting for the occupation troops--were left open and will be settled later by lower level officials. The Soviets have shown little willingness to accommodate Prague on these matters. Now that Moscow has what it wants--formal Czechoslovak agreement to Soviet troops on its soil--it is unlikely to be more generous.

With the signing of the treaty, Moscow has taken a large step toward carrying out its view of "normalization." The Czechoslovaks have not yet satisfied Moscow's demand that they admit the intervention was justified because of the existence of a "counterrevolutionary" situation. Moscow may direct its next efforts to obtaining such an admission, which would open the gates for a broad purge of the Czechoslovak party and government.

The tough Soviet posture since Dubcek's talks in Moscow on 3-4 October has taken its toll on Czechoslovak morale.  Dubcek and his colleagues were disheartened when faced with unexpected new Soviet demands to cut party membership to the bone, reorganize the party structure, and install new leaders. The talks were reportedly so one-sided that the Czechoslovak party

25X1

17 Oct 68

*Central Intelligence Bulletin*

3

SECRET

~~SECRET~~

presidium subsequently approved the conduct of the delegation, but not the results of the negotiations.

The accounts of these talks have led to a resurgence of party conservatives and at the same time probably are at the root of growing dissidence among the people. Some non-Communist political groups banned since the invasion reportedly have been meeting in secret, and some intellectuals believe it is time that the Czechoslovaks demonstrate more vigorously their disapproval of Prague's growing subservience.

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25X1

17 Oct 68

*Central Intelligence Bulletin*

4

~~SECRET~~

Jordan: The Jordanian Government's new pro-scriptions against terrorist activity have provoked an angry response from the Fatah terrorist organization in Cairo.

Fatah claims that the Amman government is undermining the terrorist movement by bringing "counter-revolutionary" desert forces into action, and by conscripting Jordanian youths into the army in order to prevent their joining the fedayeen. Fatah spokesmen assert that East Bank police have been disarmed because their loyalty is uncertain.

The Jordanians are in fact taking measures along these lines. Security forces have set up new checkpoints in and around Amman, and the Jordanian Army has been picking up sizable numbers of young men eligible for conscription. The US Embassy reports increased tension among the Amman populace.

King Husayn is due to return home from a medical visit to London at the end of the week. If he maintains his present policy toward the terrorists, which seems likely, he may be in for a serious domestic reaction.

25X1

17 Oct 68

*Central Intelligence Bulletin*

5

SECRET

Turkey: The major opposition Republican People's Party (RPP) is again plagued by serious internal dissension, and the biennial national convention which opens tomorrow could produce a new party split.

The disagreement centers on the RPP's political philosophy. A majority of party members appear to favor the present left-of-center orientation, but moderates believe the RPP has swung too far to the left. Party chief Ismet Inonu has generally remained aloof from the debate. According to the Turkish press, however, he recently stated publicly that the RPP will never become a socialist party.

Inonu, who helped Ataturk create the RPP, recently celebrated his 84th birthday and cannot be expected to maintain active leadership much longer. The current skirmishing is almost certainly aimed at gaining control of key offices and the policy-making structure in the party before Inonu steps down. Bulent Ecevit, RPP secretary general and a leader in the left-of-center faction, appears to be the top contender for Inonu's mantle, but his bid will not go unchallenged.

The differences between opposing RPP factions appear irreconcilable. One of the leaders of the moderate wing has charged that a few "perverted extreme leftists" are trying to make the RPP a "tool of their evil ambitions." In turn, a left-wing spokesman attacked the moderates as "profiteers" who are "allied to capitalists and other reactionary forces" trying to mutilate the left-of-center philosophy.

The left-of-center faction probably will dominate the convention, and the moderates consequently may bolt the party, following the example of a group that left in the spring of 1967. A new split on the eve of an election year could be a serious blow to the party.

17 Oct 68

*Central Intelligence Bulletin*

6

SECRET

SECRET

UK-Rhodesia: The British are trying to keep alive the faint possibility that Prime Minister Ian Smith will accept their terms for settling the dispute, but they are not very optimistic.

London is prepared to continue discussions, and hopes that the Rhodesians will be willing to meet with Commonwealth Secretary Thomson in Salisbury. British officials also take comfort from the fact that the recent talks were held in a much better atmosphere than were the meetings two years ago.

Smith yesterday called publicly upon Britain to drop a key demand which would give London an effective veto over any constitutional change following independence. He said if this were done there would be a "distinct possibility" of a settlement. Smith appears to be still anxious to avoid the onus of breaking off the negotiations and presumably would be willing to spin them out further with Thomson. [REDACTED]

25X1

25X1

17 Oct 68

Central Intelligence Bulletin

7

SECRET

~~SECRET~~

Panama: Former president Arnulfo Arias remains in the Canal Zone. There is some fear on the part of US officials that his efforts to incite violence may result in a kidnap attempt by agents of the military junta.

Sniping in the vicinity of Panama City's largest secondary school was renewed yesterday, but national guard troops restored calm with no serious incidents. A clandestine radio station has resumed transmitting sporadically--thus far with little effect--with a recorded statement by Arias urging the people to "rise up in arms against the military dictatorship."

25X1

17 Oct 68

*Central Intelligence Bulletin*

8

~~SECRET~~

SECRET

Indonesia-Singapore: The execution in Singapore today of two Indonesian marines is likely to strain relations between the two countries and to create difficulties for the Suharto government domestically.

Despite urgent personal appeals from both Indonesian President Suharto and Foreign Minister Malik, the Singapore Government refused to stay the executions. The marines were convicted of a terrorist bombing during ex-President Sukarno's campaign against Malaysia.

Malik's aide, in Singapore to seek a commutation, has predicted serious damage to Indonesia-Singapore relations. One high Indonesian official has suggested that Indonesia may reduce its embassy to consulate level. Tensions between Singapore and Indonesia may also further reduce prospects for area cooperation through the new Association of Southeast Asian Nations, already jeopardized by the Sabah dispute.

Indonesian officials have attempted to keep the issue quiet, but several emotional editorials have already appeared in the Indonesian press. The government apparently fears that the navy and marine corps--the remaining strongholds of leftists and Sukarnoists in the government--will use the issue to generate popular support enabling them to frustrate President Suharto's impending purge of these services.

25X1

17 Oct 68

*Central Intelligence Bulletin*

9

SECRET

NOTES

Philippines-Malaysia: A provocative speech by Philippine Foreign Secretary Ramos at the UN on 15 October apparently has scuttled the Philippine-Malaysian ministerial talks planned for next week in Tokyo. Malaysian Prime Minister Rahman said yesterday that Ramos' blunt statement that Malaysia has no authority to represent or speak for Sabah ruled out the Tokyo meeting to discuss relations between the two countries. The hard-line Philippine statement apparently was made on instructions from President Marcos. [REDACTED]

25X1

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Brazil: Leftist students have begun protesting the arrest on 12 October of more than 700 delegates to the 30th congress of the illegal National Students Association. Demonstrations have taken place in several cities, particularly in the turbulent Northeast, and students are meeting to decide their future course of action. Since most of those arrested belonged to the slightly less radical factions, leadership will probably fall into the hands of extremist militants in the Popular Action movement. This situation, and the reported readiness of the security forces to use a heavy hand in suppressing demonstrations, increase the possibility of violent clashes. [REDACTED]

25X1

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Guyana: Prime Minister Burnham's coalition government is near the point of breaking up over a dispute involving a proposed electoral law. The junior coalition party is opposed to the legislation, and Burnham has said he will dismiss all its cabinet ministers unless they change their stand and support him. Burnham is probably taking such an uncompromising attitude now because he believes he can get his legislation enacted without the junior party's support. [REDACTED]

25X1

17 Oct 68

*Central Intelligence Bulletin*

10

SECRET

**Secret**